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proteids in which the *N* is peripheral, triad, and unoxidised, having yielded its *O* to some other element: if however such a proteid molecule be applied to a living cell, it can be linked on again by its *N*, which thus once more becomes central."

In the same way, Professor Verworn believes that in the center of metabolism there is a highly complicated labile structure which by assimilation and dissimilation performs the vital processes. He seeks the seat of biogen in the protoplasm, but not in the nucleus, and thinks that it is a very complicated nitrogenous carbohydrate. The living cell contains a reserve of oxygen as well as of nutriments, but this oxygen is latent and the reserve of nutriment is considerable. Professor Verworn does not believe that he has solved the problem, but he thinks that his hypothesis is fruitful and may be serviceable as a guide in further speculations and experiments. While the biogen hypothesis is rather a continuation of the old physiological views, he trusts that it is not in contradiction to the enzym hypothesis, and believes that in all essential points the results of the two will be found to be compatible.

P. C.

DIE NEURONENLEHRE UND IHRE ANHÄNGER. Ein Beitrag zur Lösung des Problems der Beziehungen zwischen Nervenzelle, Faser, und Grau. Von *Dr. Franz Nissl*, a. o. Professor in Heidelberg. Mit 2 Tafeln. Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer. 1903. Pages, vi, 478. Price, 12 Marks.

The neuron theory is at present pretty generally accepted by physiologists, but our author, Prof. Franz Nissl, of Heidelberg, deems this theory to be a general misfortune because it endangers scientific progress. According to the neuron theory, the nervous system, and especially the brain, is comparable to a forest which, from a certain distance, appears like a carpet and spreads over a range of hills. In spite of the continuity of the green texture, we know that its elements consist of single trees whose spreading branches intertwine. Their processes may be very long, according to the conditions of their growth, but after all they all have a central origin somewhere, and the whole is a conglomeration of single individual cells. This theory was in the air long before it assumed concrete shape. It was first suggested by the different directions of the sensory and motor fibres in which growth and trophic characters always followed the same lines. Through Golgi's method we learn to distinguish between sensory and motor fibres, and Gudden formulated the theory in a definite law. Waldeyer gave a name to the new unit by calling the nervous cell with its several processes a neuron. Ramón y Cajal is one of the most prominent defenders of this theory, which in Germany is also represented by Hoche, Verworn, His, Edinger, Lenhossec, etc. Professor Nissl considers the development of sensory and motor fibres on trophic lines, but he denies that the neuron theory satisfies the conditions of the adult brain. He thinks that there is another element unaccounted for which cannot be regarded as a mere outgrowth of the neurons; and this is the gray substance of the nervous system. He deems its existence as an independent element an undeniable fact;

and its histological structure, as well as its connection with the cells and fibres, is in his opinion an unsolved problem still.

The present book is Nissl's polemics against the several representatives of the neuron theory, and a word of warning not to forget that the neuron theory is a mere hypothesis which, as he claims, stands in contradiction to facts. Naturally, he insists that the neuron theory cannot be regarded as the key to a comprehension of neuropathology and the theory of degeneration. A few plates illustrating his views are appended to the book.

P. C.

DIE ELEMENTE DER METAPHYSIK. Als Leitfaden zum Gebrauche bei Vorlesungen sowie zum Selbststudium. Zusammengestellt von Dr. Paul Deussen, ordentl. lichen Professor der Philosophie an der Universität Kiel. Dritte, durch eine Vorbetrachtung über das Wesen des Idealismus vermehrte Auflage. Leipzig: F. A. Brockhaus. 1902. Pages, xliv, 271.

The Elements of Metaphysics by Dr. Paul Deussen has appeared in the third edition. The work has been translated into English and French and the present edition is slightly increased by a few additions. The spirit of the book and the whole conception, which is practically a Vedantism transferred and adapted to Kant's criticism, has remained the same as in the first edition. It is perhaps the most characteristic work of the author, who is known not only as a metaphysical philosopher but also and especially as an Orientalist and a translator of several Sanscrit works. Our divergence from the author's views has been set forth in our review of the first edition, and also in the review of his *History of Philosophy*, so there is no need of entering into the subject further here.

P. C.

NIETZSCHE DER "ANTICHRIST." Eine Untersuchung von Prof. Dr. Paul Schwartzkopff. Leipzig: Verlag von W. Schäfer. 1903. Pages, 67.

The last philosophical book which Nietzsche wrote was entitled *The Anti-Christ*, for Nietzsche was proud of his hostility to Christianity. Accordingly, Professor Schwartzkopff compares him to Julian the Apostate. In his childhood Nietzsche was pious. His school-mates called him "the little pastor," and in his fifteenth year he wrote poetry of unusual fervor, breathing a holy zeal for salvation and forgiveness of sins, and finding comfort in the belief in Jesus Christ. In his twentieth year he still addressed in his poetry the unknown God, and he begins to lose his faith with his study of philosophy. He was first under the influence of Schopenhauer, but being predominantly an individualist he soon cut loose from the great pessimist and developed an original line of thought, in which in contrast to Schopenhauer's negativism he attempted to become a representative of an affirmative philosophy. It is then that he proposed to recoin all values and to change the traditional conception of good and bad. He objected to love and sympathy, the ideal of Christian and pessimistic ethics, which he criticised as a weakness.